

MONESSEN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
ONE WENDELL RAMEY LANE
MONESSEN, PA 15062

SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

OPENING:

Minutes of the regular meeting of Monessen City Council held Wednesday, September 17, 2014 in Council Chambers of the Monessen Municipal Complex, One Wendell Ramey Lane, Eastgate 8, Monessen, PA. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Louis Mavrakis.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called and the following members were in attendance:

PRESENT:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

ABSENT:

PRESENT: FIVE

ABSENT: NONE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All present recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United State of America.

Mayor Mavrakis, "I apologize for us being a few minutes late, but our meeting took a little bit longer in the back."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Mavrakis, "Could I have a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2014 meeting?"

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second".

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis opened the floor for public comment on Agenda Items only at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos - Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Second and Final Reading of Bill Number 4 of 2014 – An Ordinance of the City of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Approving One Time Only Amnesty Program for City of Monessen Property Owners for Delinquent Trash Fees for the Years 2013 and Prior and City Real Estate Taxes for the Years 2003-2005 Paid in Full between September 22, 2014 and November 22, 2014."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "So moved"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Second and Final Reading of Bill Number 5 of 2014 – An Ordinance Requiring all Individuals or Entities Utilizing Credit Cards for Payment of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and Municipal Claims to Pay the Charges or Fees Associated with the Transaction."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "So moved"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second it"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

No Report

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

No Report

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

No Report

Solicitor Gary Matta

No Report

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve the 2014 MMO prepared by Mockenhaupt Benefit Group for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$276,263.00"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve the 2014 MMO prepared by Mockenhaupt Benefit Group for the Firemen's Pension Plan in the amount of \$23,928.00."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve the 2014 MMO for the Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan in the amount of \$54,250.00

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "That's all Mayor, thank you."

Lucille D'Alfonso – Department of Streets & Public Improvements

Councilwoman D'Alfonso gave the following Street Department Report for the month ending August 2014:

Street Department Report

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "The street department report for August 2014: the street department cold patched 39 streets, cleaned 5 catch basins, jetted 166 feet of sewer line, hauled 53 loads of yard waste, swept 27 streets, responded to 23 PA 1 calls, repaired 3 parking meters, did a sewer line repair on Oneida St., cut 21 areas with the Boom Tractor, repaired, replaced, removed or installed 12 signs, emptied trash cans Downtown 13 times in the month, cut and trimmed Eastgate Islands 4 times, cut and trimmed Rebecca and Schoonmaker 4 times, cut and trimmed Arizona Alley and Ontario St 4 times, cut and trimmed Parente Islands 4 times, cut and trimmed Monessen Blvd. Islands 4 times, cut and trimmed lots on Donner Ave 4 times, cut and trimmed lot on Schoonmaker Ave 4 times, cut and trimmed Islands at 5th and 6th St. parking lots 3 times, cut and trimmed 2nd St. steps 4 times, cut and trimmed 4th St. steps 4 times, cut and trimmed Rostraver St. steps 2 times, emptied trash cans 3 times a week Downtown and Boat Launch, cut 9th St. Island 2 times, cut across from Valley 1st bank 2 times, cut 30 lots with Brush Hog and by hand in the 3rd ward, cut and trimmed lots on Reed and Knox Ave., had repairs done to a total of 9 pieces of equipment including the police car and tractors, etc."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That's the street department report. Also, since the last Council Meeting we proceeded with the Viaduct repair. If you recall, we had stated that we were going to do a kind of band aid repair on the Viaduct to protect the citizens from anything falling off the bottom. We received 3 bids and the lowest bid actually came in lower then we were anticipating at a bid of \$4,975.00. I have a Motion to award Pittsburgh Rigging Company the job to complete the repairs on the Reed Ave Viaduct, in the amount of \$4,975.00 using funds received from the Act 13 UGWF Marcellus Shale Impact Fees. I also would like to add that they will provide traffic control and are beginning this work on Wednesday, September 24 between the hours of 8am and 4pm."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Incidentally, Johnny, whenever they do start that project, you'll coordinate it with them as far as the traffic is concerned? You'll take of that?"

Councilwoman Bukowski – Department of Parks & Public Properties

Parks Department Report

Councilwoman Bukowski gave the following Parks Department Report for August 2014:

Removed trash from Police Station 2 or 3 times a week, swept and mopped floors, cleaned restrooms and jail cells as needed, removed trash from Civic Center, swept and mopped floors in hallway, cleaned restrooms, swept and mopped Gym floor if needed, cleaned up tree branches inside City Park from high winds, removed trash from the following parks: 9th St. Park, Shawnee Park Ball Field, Walking Track, Soccer Field, City Park Ball Field, Columbus Park Ball Field, Park Manor Ball Field; cut the Soccer Field once a week, cut City Park Ball Field once a week, dragged City Park Ball Fields before each game that week, cut City Park and Walking Track 2 times for the month, cut 9th St. Park 2 times for the month, cut Boat Launch and Park 2 times for the month, cut Hoover Park 2 times, cut Crest Ave. gas lot 2 times, cut along service lane 1 time, cut the River Walk 2 times, cut 4 parts of 6th St. Park, set up shelters in City Park 10 times for rentals,

set up Boat Launch 2 times for rental, set up 9th St. Park 2 times for rental, cleaned out the basement of the Civic Center so it could be rented, emptied trash cans in the Parks 28 times for the month. That's the Parks Report."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "The Minutes from the Civic Center, basically the Civic Center is now renting the Gym for Youth Basketball and in the evenings for guys and girls to have pick-up basketball games, indoor soccer, volleyball, and wiffle ball. They also have a party room for youth birthday parties, the gym is also included with the rental."

"I want to thank the people who adopted the flower boxes and kept them looking beautiful all summer: C Coates, SPHS school children with Linda Fafallius as the supervisor, Brett, Louise, and Alexa LePresti, Sylvia Spadafore who did the memorial for Ernie Coccari, Monessen Historical Society who adopted 2, Nancy Horvath, Glenda Mavrakis, and Don Kerns, First Federal Savings & Loan adopted 3. Again, thank you for keeping the flower boxes blooming all summer. I'd like to thank the Orthodox Churches for the community garden. They utilized green space and have given out many vegetables to people in the community."

"Last but not least, I am proud to announce that the events at the new amphitheater have been a great success. The committee under the direction of President Matt Shorraw, have done a fantastic job of presenting programs in the Park. The committee started with no money, and with the help of the following people, have been able to present 4 successful programs. The first program was a Doo Wop in the Park with DJ Dennis Wince with over 250 people attending. The next program was Dallas Marks, paid for by the Monessen Community Development Corporation and Hilltop Firemen with 325 people attending. The Ribbon Cutting with Mon Valley Barbershoppers and Mad Mike, it's a Jazz group, had 125 attending, and Motown in Monessen with DJ Ralph Trilli with over 100 attending. We made a mistake, this was a great show but we happened to have it on the same day as the Steelers had their first home game. But it was a nice turnout anyway, it was a beautiful day. We also have coming up, you'll see Heavy Metal, so if any of you are interested in Heavy Metal we have that coming up in the Park too. That's my report so far."

"I need a Motion to approve Payment Request No. 6 to Maccabee Industrial, Inc. for the City Park Amphitheater Improvement Projects in the amount of \$46,904.87 as recommended by Urban Design Ventures. This will be paid from DCNR funds."

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion on the floor."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Is this paid in full now?"

City Clerk Minno, "I think there might be one more payment."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "One more payment? Okay."

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I make a Motion to approve the request from American Medical to use the Boat Launch on Saturday, July 11, 2015."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I would imagine, is that for the Salute America again; as what we have every year?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yeah"

Mayor Mavrakis, "We have a Motion?"

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Motion to approve the request from Monessen Amphitheater Committee to use Monessen City Park Walking Track and Amphitheater on October 25, 2014 from 5-8 pm for a Fall Festival. This Festival is going to be a little different; they're going to have a Trunk or Treat, and we're going to have the...put up things to be uh...there's 400 and some kids at the Elementary Center, they can sign up to get treats

up at City Park, so if anybody is interested in doing that, this is going to happen on the same day that I think Trick or Treat is, so this right after that."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilwoman Bukowski, "A motion to approve the request from Zach Fehl to use Monessen City Park Amphitheater on September 27, 2014 from 2-7 pm for a Heavy Metal Monessen show. This is actually under the Amphitheater Committee but he submitted his own letter."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Incidentally, today Gary and I went up to the Amphitheater and it was the first time that Gary had the opportunity to see the facility. We looked at the safety factor that we talked about, and Gary looked at it. They're in the process of doing something with it. Gary, do you want to...?"

Solicitor Matta, "It appears that they've designed a system that is right behind the wall that was in question so there's no way for a child to drop down through there. That was I think the concern of the Mayor and Council here, it's been addressed properly and I

think at this point it's a beautiful facility and hopefully it will be well used by the community."

Mayor Mavrakis, "But I just want to clarify, I voted Nay in the last vote on that facility being repaired, and it wasn't that I didn't want it repaired, I objected to the additional money which was \$6,000 which should have been taken care of. It was an obvious safety hazard."

Solicitor Matta, "Clearly, I think this, now how we have it situated, our children are in a better safety position."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "That's by today's standards, you know that's been there 100 years."

Solicitor Matta, "And again, the reasons at this point, I'm not looking to look backwards, we want to look forward. It's been solved and our children are safe and I think that's what the importance of our community is, to make sure our youth are safe and we have good facilities for them to use, and clearly that's a beautiful facility, it's there now, and it's safe, and we need to make sure we use it as much as possible."

Mayor Mavrakis, "No, it's not done yet, Gary. They're in the process."

Solicitor Matta, "I think it's pretty close though."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "It's pretty much done."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Both sides, they still need work on them."

Solicitor Matta, "There may be a couple things that still need done."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I have the pictures."

Solicitor Matta, "It looks pretty close."

Councilman Nestor – Department of Public Safety

Councilman Nestor, "Good evening Council, Honorable Mayor, Citizens of Monessen. Thank you all for coming out tonight. Here are my following reports for the Public Safety Department."

Code Office Report

Councilman Nestor, "Code Enforcement Officer sent a letter stating some of the activities that were taken place on his behalf. Several of those were to contact PennDot, People's Gas, and West Penn Power on cutting back utility lines and sections of 906

and areas of 70 coming into Tyrol Blvd. We sent out 60 letters warning property owners that they are violating Property Maintenance Codes. We also sent out several letters to property owners that were renting out property without an occupancy permit."

"Right now, the Street Opening Permits, we collected \$1,200; Sign Permits, \$20; Magistrate Code Enforcement, \$423.04; Occupancy Permits, \$650; Plumbing License, \$150; Landlord Fees, \$450; Fireworks Permits, \$1,900 for the end of August came to a total of \$4,793.04. Currently, the Year-to-Date we are at \$82,698.66."

Fire Report

Councilman Nestor, "We have a total of 200 hours of service for the City of Monessen within the end of August. There were currently 15 calls, also our Municipal Fire Chief is going to be working with the Solicitor and myself with getting the Standard Operating Guidelines today's current need."

EMS Report

Councilman Nestor, "Currently though, there were 142 Emergency calls, 3 Fire Standbys, and 3 Public Service calls for the Emergency Medical Services of Mon Valley. And that concludes my report, I give the floor Mayor, thank you."

Gerald Saksun – City Treasurer

City Treasurer Saksun, "Mayor Lou Mavrakakis and members of City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen the following is a report of the Garbage Collection Fees and City Real Estate Taxes collected. Garbage Fees budgeted for 2014 - \$470,000.00; Garbage Fees collected as of July 31 - \$451,750.00; Garbage Fees collected during August - \$1,945.00; Total Garbage Fees collected as of August 31- \$453,695.00; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of July 31 - \$34,100.39; Delinquent Garbage Fees collected during August was \$2,875.98. Delinquent Garbage Fees collected as of August 31 is \$36,976.37.

General Fund Real Estate Taxes budgeted is \$1,265,619.00; Debt Service Fund budgeted \$490,000.00, City Parks Fund budgeted \$216,250.00, Library Fund budgeted \$50,000 for a total of \$2,021,869.00.

City Real Estate Taxes collected as of July 31 - \$1,795,813.34 , City Real Estate Taxes collected during August - \$11,792.31; Penalties were \$802.42; City Real Estate Taxes collected as of August 31 - \$1,808,408.07.

Delinquent City Taxes collected during August - \$0.00; Total Delinquent City Taxes collected as of August 31 - \$5,437.87.

Distribution of the Income is as follows: General Fund received \$1,205,910.90; Debt Service Fund - \$462,567.51; City Parks Fund received - \$89,912.55; Library Fund received \$50,017.11 for a total of \$1,808,408.07

Mayor, that concludes my report for August."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You have a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report?"

Councilman Retos, "So moved Mayor."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second that."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Wayne Vlasic – City Controller

Controller's Report

City Controller Vlasic read the Controller's Report as follows: General Fund First Federal Checking Account Bank Reconciliation as of August 31, 2014: Beginning Bank Balance - \$101,490.51; Deposits - \$410,584.12; PLGIT Transfers - \$305,000.00 for a Total of \$817,074.63. Checks Cashed \$662,174.45; leaving a Bank Balance of \$154,900.18. Outstanding Checks \$55,560.71; Bounced Check and Fees - \$35.00; amount reconciled to the Balance Sheet of \$99,374.47.

CDBG Report

Controller Vlasic, "next is the CDBG Bank Account Monthly Activity: Beginning Balance \$14,201.41; Deposits \$6,428.60 for a total of \$20,630.01; Checks Cashed \$9,654.86 for a Bank Balance of \$10,975.15; Outstanding Checks \$1,740.00 for a final month end balance of \$9,235.15. That's the CDBG Fund Report, your Honor."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Could I have a motion to accept CDBG funds?"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "So moved."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I'll second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Gary Matta – Solicitor

Solicitor Matta, "Mayor, Council, Ladies and Gentlemen; the last month has been a very busy month. When I came here, as I walked into the door last month before the meeting, I had a gentlemen outside say to me "You'll wish you didn't come to Monessen" and I can honestly say that that's not true. I've enjoyed the month and I can assure all the residents here that you have one the hardest working administrations, councils, and mayors that I've seen. And probably the reason for that is there's a lot of work to do in Monessen, but they're always here. I can tell you that over the last month, everyday, I've spoken to at least one, if not more, of your elected officials and Holly and I talk on a regular basis either by text, email or by the phone, every day. With that being said, we handled a number of personnel issues, we handled some issues that I want to speak on further about vacant properties, as the Councilman said, we're working on some Firemen issues, I've been with the Police Chief over some Police issues, I've met with the Municipal Authority Solicitor and their administrative staff and our engineer to discuss some of the issues we have with the sewage concerns here. I've worked with the City Engineer over some other issues that we have to resolve within the Municipality. We have also worked with the administrative staff here over some grants and loans that have been provided over the years to various homeowners for renovations and reconstruction to their home and we're trying to address some of those concerns that have been lingering.

"I think the biggest issue that we have talked about though, in the last month, and one that this Council and Mayor are clearly engaged in; we've met with the County about trying to take over properties from the Repository that are in disrepair, and/or vacant properties to try to bring this community back into a more viable state. At this point, the Council and the Mayor are working on a plan with the County, I think next month we'll be able to have...we know basically what we want to accomplish, but we'll have more specifics that we'll be able to report on, that I believe we'll be the first phase of

redevelopment within this community which we need to address. As we've talked about in the meetings with the County, I know that there's been some articles in the newspapers and discussions here that the blight is what is hurting all the Rivertowns, not just the City of Monessen, but all of the Rivertowns where the mills used to be. Blighted communities are a problem, I think that this Council and Mayor have come up with a plan that we're going to give out here in the next several weeks that I believe everybody will see, is the first step to trying to bring our community back to its heyday. I've had the opportunity to be in the community and I have to say, I have not had one resident or business owner that I've met with, and I've met with a considerable amount of you over the last month. Every time I've been in the community I've eaten in the community for lunch, I do like to eat a lot as you can tell. I made sure I got to meet people and talk with you to find out what your feelings were and I believe this Council and Mayor do have a plan. I heard that they didn't, I have to disagree, I think that they have a plan, we're going to roll that plan out, they have directed me to look into some of your previous financings and see if there's some savings there. It looks like that we may be able to do something with them, maybe not in this budget year but hopefully in the next budget year and do something with the financings that may be able to create some revenues that we can address some of these blights. So if you can give us a little bit of an opportunity here to put a good plan together, work with the County, I think it's something that everybody in this community will be happy with in the long term. And again, this community, the problems we're having didn't occur yesterday, they've occurred over 30 or 40 years. You need to give this Council and Mayor the opportunity to address them and move forward and I believe that that's what we're going to do.

"I also have had an opportunity to work on some code issues here and there. I know that some of these issues may not be to the specific individuals that are being affected by them. Moving quickly enough, I can assure you, before the next meeting we're going to have those issues addressed. I see the one young lady here, and that's why I wanted to make sure I made a comment on that, and as always, I think the people that have dealt with me understand I'm pretty easy to get in touch with, and I'm willing to be in the community to do what I need to do. If you get a hold of me, I'll come see the problem and we're going to...you may not like the answer at some points, you know everybody wants their problem to be solved, sometimes those problems cannot be solved by City Government. At least you'll understand that they were looked at, that we addressed them, and if this City Government can't help, we'll at least try to direct you in the areas that they can. I can assure you, I do this every evening, I'm in some Municipality or School District working; your administrative staff, your Council, your Mayor, has the best intentions for the community, I think we just need to get a little bit of time to move in that direction and I can assure you, you'll start seeing those things over the next several months. Mayor, that's the end of my report, unless any of the Council Members or yourself have any questions."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well, I just want to enlighten the crowd; there's been a lot of tension in here for the last several months, today I think we kind of bridged that. We had a meeting in my office and we're all on the same page. We're going to move forward and do something with this City and with the blight. This whole Council, along with our Solicitor,

agrees that the blight is the biggest problem here, and we all agree we gotta do something with it, and we have some plans. Gary's going to really do some good in that area."

Solicitor Matta, "I hope so, and again, just give us an opportunity and if people from the community have suggestions, please, don't hesitate to get that information into us. All the dealings I've had, every phone call I get from the Mayor, from the Councilmen, it's because this community member has a problem, could you try to help them? That's what they're here to do. Again, sometimes we can't help, sometimes we can, but we're doing the best we can with the resources that this City has. We're not an extremely wealthy community, and we're going to try to go and use our resources at its best manner. All I can keep telling is all I heard is, that this City didn't want to bring itself out of it, and I do not believe that. I grew up in a similar community, as I told you at the last meeting. I believe that City's like Monessen are the type of communities that built this country and to get it back we need help from all of you, we need you to be understanding at times that things aren't going to work out as quickly maybe as we would all like. But again, these problems didn't occur over the last few weeks, they've occurred over the last 30 or 40 years. We need to address them. I think this group here wants to address those problems and has a vision to do so. If you give us the opportunity I think that we'll make you proud at the end of the day."

Mayor Mavrakis, "And closing on that subject, the meeting that we had today was very civil with each other and I think we all reached an understanding so the citizens of Monessen could realize that we're going forward and we're all on the same boat. I'll leave it at that."

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Jonmichael Retos – Department of Accounts & Finance

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of General Fund Expenditures for the month of September in the amount of \$323,170.18".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I'll second that".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Health Center Expenditures for the month of September in the amount of \$31,484.62".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Parks Fund Expenditures for the month of September in the amount of \$19,533.37".

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Grant Fund Expenditures for the month of September in the amount of \$4,316.31."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "Motion to approve payment of Line Usage Fund Expenditures for the month of September in the amount of \$23,000.41".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second".

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Retos, "That's all Mayor, thank you very much."

Mayor Mavrakis – Department of Public Affairs

Police Department Report

Mayor Mavrakis, "Parking Meter Receipts - \$1,219.21; Off Street Receipts - \$351.55; Total Parking Meter Receipts - \$1,570.76; Parking Fines & Forfeits - \$1,006.00; Total On & Off Fines & Forfeits - \$1,006.00; Parking Permits: On Street Permits - \$1,475.00; Off Street Permits - \$1,100.00; Total Parking Permits - \$2,575.00; Miscellaneous Collections: Copies of Police Accident Reports - \$165.00; Charleroi Prisoners -

\$1,750.00; RESA Prisoners - \$175.00; Restitution - \$20.00; Meter Bags - \$60.00; Open Records - \$8.00; Total Miscellaneous Collections - \$2,003.00; Court Receipts from District Justice Office: Vehicle Code Fines Collected - \$756.55; Crimes Code Fines Collected - \$2,880.20; City Ordinance Collected - \$542.23; Code Enforcement Collected - \$423.04; Total Receipts from District Justice Office - \$4,602.02; Total Receipts Collected for August 2014 - \$11,756.78. Arrests for August 2014: Total – 84; Year Total – 863."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to ratify the hiring of Andrew Jacobs as Part Time Police Officer at \$14.50 per hour (Salary paid by Westmoreland Housing Authority). Johnny, you got a comment on that? Is he here?"

Councilman Retos, "Yeah, we can swear him in too."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well wait a while, the Motion's not done yet. John, you got anything nice to say about him? You didn't say –"

Chief Mandarino, "He's coming to work here so..."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I know, but whenever you talked to me this morning you didn't have too much nice to say about him."

Chief Mandarino, "He's got prior experience; he's going to work out well here. Like I said at the Work Session, we lost four guys at the station."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to hire Ryan Clark as Part Time Police Officer at \$14.50 per hour (Salary is paid by Westmoreland County Housing Authority)."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Ryan Clark was sworn in at this time

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to approve the Sale of Tax Map No. 20-02-03-0-159 (Lot #1) from the Redevelopment Authority to John Scott Nestor in the amount of \$100.00."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Nestor Abstained from voting

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to approve the Sale of Tax Map No. 20-02-03-0-160 (Lot #2) from the Redevelopment Authority to John Scott Nestor in the amount of \$100.00"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Nestor Abstained from voting

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to approve the Sale of Tax Map No. 20-02-03-0-161 (Lot #3) from the Redevelopment Authority to John Scott Nestor in the amount of \$100.00"

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FOUR

NAYS: NONE

Councilman Nestor Abstained from voting

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to issue a Handicap Parking Space to David Lint at 636 Delaware Ave (across the street) contingent upon payment & proper paperwork."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to allow Salvation Army to use parking lots on the corner of Third and Schoonmaker Avenue for the weekend of September 19-21, 2014 for 100 year Celebration."

Councilman Retos, "Second"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Mayor Mavrakis, "After the meeting, if you want to comment on that Sue, we'll take you then."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Motion to issue a Handicap Parking Space to Mary Anne Sivak at 714 Oneida St. contingent upon payment & proper paperwork."

Councilman Retos, "Second Mayor"

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the Motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilwoman Bukowski
Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Mavrakis opened the meeting for public comment at this time. Instructed the public to step to the microphone, give their name and address.

Reverend William Bass – 1225 Leeds Ave, "I just want to address the Mayor and Council and thank you all for the time, I would be very brief; we have a safety problem up by our Church and it's resulted in about 8 or 9 near misses. On Tuesday night we had a van full of kids that we load the van in the lower lot, the problem is that there's a parking place right between the two lots that blocks any view of traffic coming down over the hill. Like I've said, we've had quite a few near misses and it's just an accident waiting to happen. What we request, Gate of Heaven Church of God and Christ, what we request is that we take that few feet that's there and make it a yellow curb so that no one can park there. It's bad when the cars park there, now there's a box truck that parks there and it just totally blocks the view. We were told we had to come and talk to you all about it. I know I was here a few meetings ago talking about 9th St. I don't think that's a big fix, but it is something that we need to get done."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Reverend, do you know who it belongs to?"

Reverend William Bass, "No I don't."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Leonard, do you have any knowledge of that?"

Leonard Billy, "Retired Lieutenant Aldrich brought it to my attention and asked if I could paint a yellow curb and I told him it has to come from Mayor and Council and Solicitor before I can put a yellow curb up and a no parking sign."

Mayor Mavrakis, "You have no problem with it though?"

Leonard Billy, "I have no problem with putting it up as long as it's Mayor and Council approved."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Well I don't mind as far as I'm concerned, what's the Council's pleasure on it?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Is this Reed and McKee?"

Reverend William Bass, "It's Reed Avenue. When you start down over the hill, we have two parking lots; one at the top, and one right below that. And with the truck sitting there when you come out the bottom parking lot, you can't see anything coming over the hill."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Is the home adjacent to you, going down the hill, is that blighted, Reverend? Or is somebody in it?"

Reverend William Bass, "I'm not sure about that. I kinda don't think so, but I'm not sure."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Chick do you know for sure if it's blighted?"

Leonard Billy, "Umm, I'm not positive on that , it's the first house right next to the parking lot."

Mayor Mavrakis, "I don't see that it's an issue."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "I don't think there's a problem."

Solicitor Matta, "Chief, if you wouldn't mind, could you give us a description so we can modify the Ordinance for that? I think that if Council's fine with it this evening, we can get a yellow curb put in, and then we can modify the Ordinance if need be."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "It's not in front of a lot, are you saying?"

Chief John Mandarino, "There's no house in front of it. They have a lot, and there's a little area, is that what you're talking about? They have another lot so there should be no problem."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "And it's a safety issue, so I don't think there's a problem."

Councilman Retos, "Yeah, I'm fine with it."

Mayor Mavrakis, "The Council's in agreement Reverend, we'll take care of that. Chick, will you and Johnny take of that?"

Chief Mandarino, "Yes sir."

Reverend William Bass, "Thank you very much."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else?"

Anthony Orzechowski – 1229 Hillcrest Ave, "City Council, Mayor, thank you, for a moment. Just a couple questions, I wonder if the City Council can update the citizens about where the City is at financially right now?"

Councilman Retos, "Paying our bills."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Would you like to elaborate that a little longer?"

Councilman Retos, "No"

Anthony Orzechowski, "Where are we sitting, plus or minus? I think you reported \$90,000."

Councilman Retos, "Well, the fourth quarter obviously is starting at the beginning of next week so that's when we'll be getting our State and Federal funding in. We're a little bit behind the ball right now until our Federal and State funding come in. Obviously, you know how the Federal and the State government are, they are very slow. Unfortunately, when you rely on those certain funds, we're at their mercy. We're a little bit behind the eight ball and we are desperately waiting for our funding to come in. I don't know what the exact figure is today."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Ok. Could someone elaborate on what the status of the Brown Street Clock Project? Is it working?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "I have a comment on that. Today I had Stanley Marinos..."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I had Stanley Marinos, I had talked to Stanley."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Is Stanley here? Chick, was you with him today?"

Leonard Billy, "I was with Stanley Marinos today. The clock is up and running as you can tell right now, last time I looked at it, it's keeping the correct time. And we gotta let it run and see what happens."

Councilman Retos, "And you also put a lock on the outlet?"

Leonard Billy, "It's locked, so nobody can play with the electricity."

Anthony Orzechowski, "So as far as you're concerned the clock is done, closed, finished, no more...?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Well, I mean, nobody can guarantee anything, I mean, it's an old clock."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Well I'm asking you is there a guarantee, when you wrote a contract to whoever prepared to fix it?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "I can't hear you."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Was there a contract stating that they will maintain it if it goes down, gets broken, is there a warranty, is there something?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No, no. Who would we have the contract with?"

Anthony Orzechowski, "Well who prepared the clock?"

Councilman Retos, "A local guy. A citizen; a very, very, talented citizen volunteered to repair it."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "He came down and checked it out and whatever he did must have--"

Councilman Retos, "He was also a former Street employee and very well..."

Anthony Orzechowski, "But I mean, last time we talked about it, I believe we talked about line items, and cost overruns and things of that nature."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "That wasn't the Brown Street Clock."

Anthony Orzechowski, "It wasn't?"

Councilwoman Bukowski, "No."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That was the amphitheater."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "It had nothing to do with that, it's entirely separate."

Anthony Orzechowski, "Okay. Just want to make sure. Thank you."

Leonard Billy, "Mayor and Council, I would also like to thank Mr. Stanley Marinos and Mr. George Shusta for their participation in the repair of the clock. They needed certain nuts and washers, we were able to locate for him, he located them, and Mr. Marinos was able to make some parts in his little machine shop in his garage. Basically that's what you do, when you just tinker around with stuff that's how you fix things. And I'd like to thank them."

Councilman Retos, "Mayor, can we send them a Thank You letter?"

Mayor Mavrakis, "No problem."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "When I called him he had no problem with coming. Actually, he came and looked at this unit here; that's why we still have no microphones; he looked at this unit and he said the two, the microphones that we had are no good to work with that."

City Clerk Minno, "The board was shot."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Whoever told us to spend the money I guess was not correct. So he's trying to find us a unit that will work with the old unit that was originally here. And you know, he's doing this because he wants to do it, he doesn't want any money for it, and I thank Stanley for coming through for us."

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "That's a good citizen."

Councilwoman Bukowski, "Yes"

Lieutenant Susan Thwaite – 1112 State Rd, "I'd like to address Mayor and Council and Solicitor. I'd like to start by thanking you for use of the parking lots for our weekend event. Saturday, we'll have a block party for anyone in the community from 12-2, or no I'm sorry, 2-4, got my own times mixed up. If anyone has free time, we could always use extra hands to help with that, feel free to stop by. Secondly, I met with our Divisional Headquarters today and they were asking for an update on our property issues. I was able to let them know that there have been minimal improvements and I do believe that is because of diligence of Council members and community - other community staff and leaders speaking with the property owner. We are still very concerned, as I personally spoke with the property owner yesterday to ask the plan, and he informed me that he was going to continue a brick at a time working on this property. So that was his direct quote to me, I asked him to remove bricks that are leaning on our property and he laughed. I didn't find that very encouraging, so I was hoping Mr. Matta that you would have some good news for us, as our kids are very excited to get back into normal programming."

Solicitor Gary Matta, "I'll be contacting you here, beginning of the week with some good news, I hope."

Lieutenant Susan Thwaite, "Okay. We appreciate that."

Councilman Retos, "Thank you Lieutenant."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Anybody else? Well I gotta congratulate people of Monessen, this is one Council meeting that we've had where we haven't had a donnybrook. Seems like everyone's calmed down, hopefully we'll all work together and we'll do something together with this city. With that, I'd like to have a motion to adjourn?"

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Retos, "so moved, Mayor".

Councilwoman D'Alfonso, "Second."

Mayor Mavrakis, "Question on the motion?"

YEAS:

NAYS:

Councilman Retos
Councilwoman D'Alfonso
Councilman Nestor
Councilwoman Bukowski
Mayor Mavrakis

YEAS: FIVE

NAYS: NONE

Andrew Jacobs was sworn in as a Part Time Police Officer following the meeting.

Louis Mavrakis
Louis Mavrakis, Mayor

Holly Minno, City Clerk